



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## REMARKS BY MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL BROWN FINDS NO FACTUAL OR LEGAL BASIS TO ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST MAYOR BY CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING SUNROAD ISSUES**

I want to make some brief remarks about the report that Attorney General Jerry Brown issued this morning regarding accusations made against me regarding the Sunroad matter last year.

In each and every case, the Attorney General found that there was no factual or legal basis for the accusations that had been made against me.

You will remember that around this time last year – over the course of several weeks -- City Attorney Mike Aguirre made a number of unsubstantiated allegations about my behavior, my integrity and my motivation in trying to resolve the Sunroad matter.

I have served our community with dignity and integrity for over 35 years. I could not allow those unfounded and inaccurate accusations to stand unrefuted.

So, on June 20<sup>th</sup> of last year, I asked the Attorney General to undertake an independent investigation into my conduct and the charges that had been unjustly leveled against me. Today, the Attorney General makes his findings known. I was given a copy of the report for the first time this morning and have only briefly read through portions of it.

In painstaking detail, each one of Mr. Aguirre's allegations -- including his specific charge of "corruption" against me -- is detailed by the Attorney General, deconstructed and then the Attorney General makes a judgment as to the accuracy of each of the charges.

In each and every case – let me repeat that again – in each and every case -- the Attorney General – a man I should note who is a Democrat, like Mr. Aguirre – finds that there was absolutely NO credible basis or legal rationale for Mr. Aguirre's irresponsible and unsubstantiated charges against me. Specifically, the Attorney General found that there was no improper influence with regard to campaign contributions or relationships. It also found that city staff acted properly and in keeping with the law.

I am grateful to be vindicated.

I have acknowledged that mistakes were made in the handling of this issue but I have always maintained that those mistakes were mistakes of the mind and not the heart. More importantly, the issue has been settled. Once the circumstances were known, I quickly moved to have the building reduced in size to 160 feet. It now stands at its lawful height.

I have maintained – and will continue to maintain – that this issue resulted largely from the poor counsel that we consistently received from the City Attorney’s office. As a result of his irresponsible and unsubstantiated allegations – and increasingly independent and aggressive posture -- I began questioning whether the advice he was providing to me and my staff was political or legal in nature.

I think it’s fair to say that false accusations poison the policy discourse and make it much more difficult to find solutions.

The message inherent in the Attorney General’s report is that bullies eventually get their due. This whole episode is representative of what happens when someone makes reckless charges motivated by their own political agenda.

This report clears the air and corrects the record.